it acts very well, but not with others. Much depends on the mode of doing it. It should be done *gradually*, and with an iron *not too hot*. My friend told me that he had taken nearly two hours in thus drying a plant, but he found himself well rewarded. I have *Orchis fusca* now that I ironed out in 1863, and it has lost very little of its colour. *Ophrys muscifera* looks well ironed; so do grasses."—*Henry Utlyett. Hardwicke's Scientific Gossip, Aug.* 1, 1866.

ZOÖLOGY.

FLIGHTS OF BUTTERFLIES.—In Europe, we have had notices of remarkable flights of swarms of butterflies; but Sir Emerson Tennent, in his work on the Natural History of Ceylon, has related similar instances of "flights of these delicate creatures, generally of a white or pale yellow hue, apparently miles in breadth, and of such prodigious extension as to occupy hours and even days, uninterruptedly in their passage":—

"The butterflies I have seen in these wonderful migrations, in Ceylon, were mostly *Callidryas hilariæ*, *C. Alcmeone* and *C. Pyranthe*, with straggling individuals of the genus *Euptœa*, *E. Coras* and *E. Prothoe*. Their passage took place in April or May, generally in a north-easterly direction. A friend of mine travelling from Kandy to Kornegalle, drove for nine miles through a cloud of white butterflies, which were passing across the road by which he went." p. 403.

GEOLOGY.

THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF MAN ON OUR PLANET.—"Although perhaps more interesting in an ethnological than in a geological point of view, we cannot altogether exclude from our notice the phenomena attending the first appearance of Man on our planet. The discoveries of the last few years have satisfactorily shown that the opinions formerly entertained of a great break existing between the period when the now extinct races of Mammalia dwelt in our land, and the first creation of man, are no longer tenable. Here also we have been obliged to give up the theory of great breaks between successive formations. As we find a gradual passage from one geological formation to another evidenced by the *gradual* dying out of the pre-existing forms of animal life, and the *gradual* introduction of newer, and generally higher, forms (although we do not yet understand the law of such progressive changes), so, when we come to the most recent, or Quaternary, periods in geological chronology, we find evidence of Man's existence on the earth before the final disappearance of those varied forms of mammalian life which have hitherto been generally looked upon as belonging to the final period of the geological cycle. Thus Man of the present day is connected by an almost unbroken series of links with

the recently discovered Foraminifera of the Laurentian gneiss."—*Anniversary Address of the President (Sir R. I. Murchison) of the Geological Society of London.* 1866.

THE EOZOÖN IN AUSTRIA.—"Prof. Hochstetter, after long and laborious search, has succeeded in finding, in the crystalline limestone of Krummau, in South-western Bohemia, agglomerations of calcareous spar and serpentine, which have been declared by Dr. Carpenter, to whom specimens had been sent for examination, to be undoubted remains of *Eozoön*. Professor Hochstetter thinks the lenticular nodules partly composed of calcareous spar and serpentine, so abundant in the vicinity of the graphitic beds of Schwarzenbach and Mugerau, to be possibly of organic origin. Prof. Gümbel has lately found the *Eozoön* in the crystalline limestones of Bavaria."—*Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society.* London. 1866.

The *Eozoön* is the earliest form of animal life known; it belongs to the lowest type of animals, the *Protozoa*, and has only been found in the oldest rocks on the globe: i. e., the Laurentian System, consisting mostly of gneiss, limestone and syenitic rocks. It was first discovered in Grenville, Canada, by the Canadian Geological Survey, and afterwards in Connemara, Ireland.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WASPS AS MARRIAGE-PRIESTS TO PLANTS.—"Among these Wasps (though technically not a wasp at all), is a fine, handsome insect which has greatly piqued my curiosity, because I have not been able to locate it, even as to its family. Can you inform me what it is? It is near the Sphegidæ, or the Scoliidæ of Westwood, but differs materially, I think, from both. I did not preserve any perfect specimen of the insect. Its striking peculiarities, in addition to its handsome appearance on the wing, or when settling on the flowers of the Asclepias, with its antennæ busily employed gently playing upon the outside of the flower, while the labium is as busy inside—are the elongated labium and the very singular appendages to the tarsus, a drawing of one of which, highly magnified, I enclose. I think from the appearance of the spines upon the tarsus, that nearly all of them have borne these appendages, which have been broken off of such as are now without them. The terminal lobe of the appendage is light green, while the enclosed granules (or cells) are

Pollen attached to the spines of a wasp's leg.